

# OWRC SACG Meeting

## Minutes

January 21, 2015

9:00 AM

OWDA Offices

<b>MEETING CALLED BY</b>	Brian Hall, OEPA- DSW
<b>TYPE OF MEETING</b>	OWRC SACG Bi-monthly
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gail Hesse, OLEC</li><li>• Brian Hall, OEPA-DSW</li><li>• Marie Barnett, OEPA – DSW</li><li>• Denise King, ODA</li><li>• Ashley Ward, EPA-DSW</li><li>• Dick Bartz, USGS</li><li>• Zuzana Bohrerova, OSU</li><li>• Mike Baker, OEPA-DDAGW</li><li>• Steve Grossman, OWDA</li><li>• Rebecca Fugitt, ODH</li><li>• Erin Hazelton, ODSA</li><li>• Greg Nageotte, ODNR</li><li>• Jim Raab, ODNR</li><li>• Sue Daly, PUCO</li><li>• Alaudin Alaudin, OEPA- DEFA</li><li>• Scott Shaneyfelt, USDA</li><li>• Ken Heigel, OWDA</li></ul>
	Next meeting March 18, 2015, OWDA 9:00am

### AGENDA TOPICS

#### WELCOME AND REVIEW OF LAST MEETING NOTES

B. HALL

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Brian Hall conducted the meeting which started at 9:00 AM; Brian welcomed everyone. There were no comments on the last meeting notes.		
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	None.		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>	
None			

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<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>The margins of the Strategic Action Plan need edited.</p> <p><b>a. Education and Outreach</b> WET has moved to Ohio EPA. The Chief of OEPA Office of Environmental Education Fund (Carolyn Watkins) is interested in getting an OWRC education subgroup back together.</p> <p><b>b. Watershed Management</b> An Action Item about TMDLs should be added. Ohio EPA would like to reinvigorate implementation of TMDL reports with sister Agencies. Ohio EPA is starting to complete the cycle and go back to watersheds that have already had one TMDL completed. Darby Creek was surveyed this summer and we are seeing improvements.</p> <p>What would be the Action Item? To develop management plans? The TMDL is a 3 year process – if things go right. There could be a broad statement to encompass collaborative, analytical and planning processes designed to restore water resource integrity with special emphasis on TMDLs. ODH currently pushes TMDLs to the local health districts.</p> <p><b>c. Infrastructure</b> The success of the partnering of shared resources needs tracked.</p> <p><b>d. Water Related Natural Hazards</b> Can we change the reference to Balanced Growth plans to a more general land use planning term? Communities are often involved with land use planning that is not part of Balanced Growth. We may want to explore links between EMA and Balanced Growth.</p>		
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	Action Items in Watershed Management, Infrastructure and Water Related Natural Hazards may need revised/additions.		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>	
Compile Final SAP and send to SACG members	Brian Hall	2/23/2015	
Brief Directors on SAP	All members	3/1/2015	

**COUNCIL MEETING**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>The OLEC is meeting in late March. It may be possible to do a joint OLEC, OWRC meeting. Balanced Growth is on both agendas, doing a joint meeting would prevent some Directors from having to hear the same Balanced Growth background information twice.</p> <p>The “State of Ohio Technical Guidance for Sealing Unused Wells” that was produced in 1996 has been revised and needs endorsed. At the time there was little regulation on the process. The regulations section has been expanded and Table 1 has been updated. The old document stressed pulling casing, which we now know can be detrimental. We also now know that</p>
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	bentonite is not always the solution and so the cement based grouts section has been expanded.		
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	A joint OWRC and OLEC meeting is a good idea, but timing may be an issue.		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>	
Work on scheduling a joint OWRC and OLEC meeting	Gail Hesse and Brian Hall	ASAP	

**UPDATES/OTHER BUSINESS**

B. HALL

	<p>There has not been a Public Advisory Group meeting for a year. Should we have another one soon? What would be on the agenda?</p> <p>What is the status of the OWRC budget? The fund has reasonable account balance. We haven't done any new projects for a while. It was recommended to increase the annual fee contribution to hire a Balanced Growth person, but that never materialized. We could put out a request for proposals. Brian should seek direction from Director Butler. OLEC had been approaching foundations to match money from the Lake Erie Commission Fund. Does the OWRC want to match? It may be useful for the Balanced Growth program. Communities that show interest and there is work that could be done with funding such as guidance documents and projects. ODOT has put money aside to evaluate the effectiveness of Balanced Growth plans. Cleveland State got the bid for that project.</p> <p><b><u>Updates</u></b></p> <p><b>OEPA, Drinking and Ground Waters</b>  HABs continue to dominate activities. There has been a small workgroup of states working with USEPA on testing methodologies. US EPA likely will be proposing a new HAB public health advisory criterion this spring. The State of Ohio Board of Regents is making \$3 million available for applied research projects related to HABs. More funding may be available in the near future. They are putting together an inter-Agency advisory group to work with researchers. DDAGW Rules are out for interested party review and include: underground injection, backflow prevention, and well standards. Legislation is being proposed to require asset management at public water systems. The Division is in the process of filling several vacancies including Mike Eggert's position. There is a revised program management plan, because more funding has been made available for PWS to purchase lab equipment, sensors, to make infrastructure improvements to assist in developing toxin avoidance strategies. There is \$100 Million available in the form of 0 interest loans for nutrient reduction. There is a rolling nomination – Brian will send the letter to SACG members.</p> <p><b>ODA</b>  USDA has recently awarded a tri-state Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) grant with a focus on the western basin of Lake Erie to assist with nutrient reductions. Denise will send the document to Brian to send out to SACG members. The fertilizer training required by SB 150 is going very well.</p>
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**OSU**

There were 21 Ohio applicants for the annual RFP. Five will be funded; two of those will focus on nutrients. The yearly grants end in November, but they can request an extension. There are usually around seven projects running. Zuzana will forward Brian a one page summary of active projects.

**ODNR, Soil and Water Resources**

The annual WAMO conference was a success about 225 people attended. The Upper Maumee Action Plan was endorsed and has USEPA's blessing. There is a collaborative effort by SE Rural Action to allow more funding for regional staffing. Chagrin River Partners has a grant so watershed coordinators can charge money to support work outside their watershed. There is a vacant Coastal Program Specialist position that has been reposted. Kurt Hines has been named Deputy Chief of Soil and Water Resources. Rodney is still Deputy and is overseeing the Water Section.

**ODH**

ODH is working on becoming Public Health Accredited. The Department is going through reorganization. The sewage rules are being implemented this includes gray water. ODH is working on guidance. ODH is required to develop rules for private water recycling/reuse.

**OLEC**

Jeff Reutter of Ohio Sea Grant announced that he is retiring at the end of March. OLEC is working on updating the Lake Erie Quality Index, which is a report on how Ohio is doing on stewardship of Lake Erie. The last time it was updated was in 2004. The binational group is trying to finish Annex 4 nutrient targets by February 15<sup>th</sup>.

**USGS**

The Workgroup for Water Resources Monitoring, a subcommittee of OWRC, meeting has been scheduled for March 4<sup>th</sup> at ODNR. The focus will be on who is doing what monitoring where and how. Next year the conversation will shift to discuss data. USGS is working with OEPA and ODNR on installing 14 new gauging stations in the Western Lake Erie watershed; 11 of them will monitor water quality.

**PUCO**

One of the PUCO Commissioner positions is up for selection. The governor will choose a Commissioner in the near future.

**OWDA**

OWDA is working with The Nature Conservancy in establishing a statewide in-lieu fee program for dredge and filling permits (404/401) in Ohio. The in-lieu fee program will allow entities to pay into a fund that will be used for mitigation to offset wetland and stream impacts caused by the development. Long time loan officer, Sue Farmer has retired. Her position is posted and will come down on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. The first shared services conference will be held in Toledo and Director Butler will be the keynote speaker.

	<p><b>ODSA</b> The Director will be focusing on economic development collaboration with local communities – building on what already exists.</p> <p><b>OEPA – Environmental and Financial Assistance</b> The Division is going through reorganization, as the Director intends to align technical and financial assistance.</p> <p><b>OEPA – Surface Water</b> DSW is working on developing nutrient standards. A advisory committee has been working for over a year to develop nutrient standards and a way to implement the standard. Standard development for in-land lakes and the gulf hypoxia issue will be the next focus areas.</p>	
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Discuss budget surplus with Director Butler	Brian Hall	3/18/2015
Send out documents to SACG members	Brian, Zuzana, Denise	3/1/2015